

VI.—EDITORIAL NOTES ON CURRENT TOPICS.

A general conference of all evangelical Christians is called to meet in Florence in 1891, immediately after Easter. The invitation is issued by the Italian Branch of the Evangelical Alliance, and is exceedingly tender in tone. One can realize how changed is the aspect of affairs in Italy only by a tour in this wonderful land. The people breathe freely now, with the Pope "a prisoner in the Vatican." How vast the changes since Dr. Marsh was compelled to leave his Bible outside the walls before he could himself enter the Eternal City! We remember Sig. Arrighi's saying that he should not be surprised if he yet had the privilege of inviting the Evangelical Alliance to meet in Rome, and seeing the meetings held in St. Peter's and the delegates lodged in the Vatican! Rome was thought of for the coming meeting, but abandoned on purely prudential grounds. There are now about 30 places of Protestant worship inside the city of the Popes! A. T. P.

The recent outrages at Zacatecas show that the Romish spirit of intolerance is only slumbering, and that if the Papal Church dared all the horrors of the Inquisition would be revived. Father Hecker said in the *Catholic World* that heresy should be punished, and that sins of heresy should be taken cognizance of in the department of *thought*. What does that mean but that to *think* differently from Rome is an offense that ought to be dealt with by law and visited with penalty? Truly we are not so far from the days of Cardinal Bellarmine who, on the basis of two texts, "Feed My sheep," and "Rise, Peter, kill and eat," argued that these two texts prove the double duty of the Church to take care of disciples and burn heretics! Why not carry such liberalism a step further, and prove that the Church should eat the heretics she burns!

A. T. P.

It is proposed that one of the editors

of this REVIEW, who has been in Britain for seven months on a tour of missions among the churches, should undertake a similar campaign in this country. He has given his consent to this arrangement and the details only remain to be settled. It is probable that he will accept the invitation of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions to give a series of addresses in the great centres East and West, between October and meeting of the next General Assembly. We bespeak for Dr. Pierson in this expected campaign the prayers of the readers of the REVIEW. His aim will be to put before the people the great facts which are calculated to stimulate missionary zeal and awaken personal consecration of self, substance and children to the work of spreading the good news over the wide world. We know no one better fitted for such a mission. J. M. S.

It is another significant sign of the times that in both China and Japan there should be the most prominent and promising movement toward the *union of all evangelical Christians in one body*. The contrast is significant, that in Christendom there should be such a multiplication of sects, and on the field of missions such a drawing together and tendency to eliminate denominationalism altogether from the body of believers!

—A trained teacher is wanted by the Reformed Church for Nagasaki, Japan, to take charge of the Steele Memorial School for Young Men. Here is an opportunity for some man of balanced judgment, learning, health, piety and a missionary spirit to impress himself upon a whole generation of Japanese youth. A similar man is needed in Amoy Mission, China, and neither needs to be ordained. Where are our young men who, like Micawber, are waiting for something to turn up? Here are opportunities for investment of mental